

JUDGES WHO WILL DECIDE THE JOURNAL'S \$1,000 PROPHECY CONTEST.

Seven Well-Known Men Have Consented to Undertake the Task of Finding Out Who, in Competition for This Lump Sum in Gold, Has Most Nearly Forecast the Momentous Happenings of the Year 1898.

The year 1898—most extraordinary year beyond doubt that this generation has known—is all but ended.

When the clock in Trinity spire shall have told that the last moments of the year have gone, when the world shall have set out upon another cycle, the great task of reading and judging the forecasts submitted in competition for the Journal's \$1,000 prophecy prize will be begun.

The huge iron receptacles which a year ago were built to hold the prophecies have been brought to a room in the Journal office from the place where during all the days and months whose events they foretold they have been hidden. From now until January 1 they will be kept under lock and key. On New Year's Day—possibly as soon as the chimes of the New Year have sounded—they will be unlocked, and then the staff selected for the work, under direction of the distinguished judges whose pictures adorn this page, will set about the great task of recording every prophecy.

The magnitude of the undertaking is plain when there are taken into account, again in a cursory way, the multitude of things which have happened since in December, 1897, the Journal offered its prize for the best forecast of the year. There will be endless questions for settlement, and it is in order that these may be fairly adjusted that every prophecy must be given its just and proper value and the contest be decided in absolute equity that the judges have been chosen from different professions.

Medicine, the law, finance, science, mercantile life—all are represented, and from the domain of prophecy, pure and simple, there comes Mr. Eben H. Emery, weather forecaster, every day of whose life, from the rising until the going down of the sun, is given up to the foretelling of what is going to happen in a weather way. In the science of war there are probably few men who are better equipped to serve as judges than Captain Zolinski, of the United States Army, whose name is known the world over in connection with the dynamite gun. Business progress and the great events in the world of trade will find a keen judge in the person of Isidor Straus. Henry Clews, whose business for far more than a quarter of a century has been to foresee and sometimes to foretell what was to happen in the field of finance, is another of the due force of judges. Dr. Cyrus Edson is one whose experience as head of the Health Department of this big city, whose scope as a writer and whose thorough skill as a medical man are in themselves an equipment for the important duties that attach to judging in this unprecedented contest. Paul Fuller represents the law arm of Concord Bros., and so stands for wide acquaintance with the conditions of the contest. Charles Commissioner John W. Keller has been editor and man of affairs, and is eminently fitted in every way to be one of this illustrious bench of judges.

It is the intention of the Journal to leave the matter of judgment—the weighing and the valuation of the numerous points in a prophecy—wholly in the hands of these gentlemen, supplying only the clerical labor necessary to a proper arrangement of the material upon which their decision is to be awarded.

All the details of the plan of adjudication are to be at all times subject to the will and wisdom of the judges, whose number—seven—has a calculated purpose. It is a self-suggestive of the right settlement of so mystic and occult a matter. Tentatively, however, this number has been offered in confidence of the contest, and the allotment of value to the various elements in the prophecies.

It is proposed, in order to simplify the work of establishing the relative position of the contestants, to refer to one of the chief events of the year a numerical value, in points, and to credit each contestant with the number of points he has won.

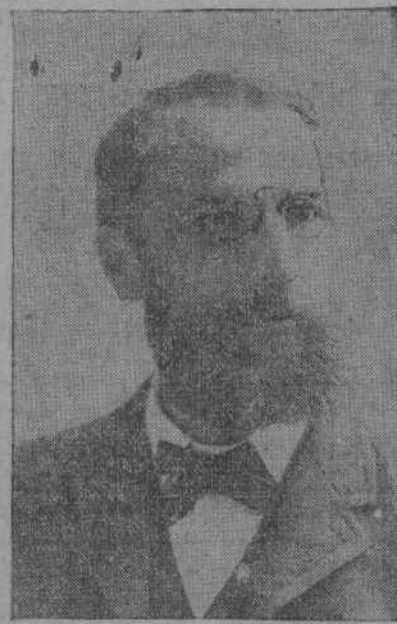
In adjusting these valuations, it is to be borne in mind that the decisive element in the contest is that of prophetic accuracy, and events should be counted not wholly upon the basis of their importance or ultimate results, but of the difficulty which attended the forecasting of them. For example, there was far more cause for prophesying the freedom of Cuba or the death of Gladstone, than the blowing up of our American battle ship in Havana harbor, or the abandonment of the Monroe doctrine for a policy of American continental expansion. The credit given for foretell-



Henry Clews.



Paul Fuller



Eben H. Emery.



Isidor Straus



Dr. Cyrus Edson.

Isidor Straus—I will willingly serve as judge in the Journal's \$1,000 prize contest for the most correct prophecy made of the events of the year.

Eben H. Emery, United States Weather Bureau—I am called a prophet, but my prophecies are all based on facts, which are placed before me, and predictions made from them. Considering this, I do not know whether or not I shall be a good judge of the \$1,000 Journal Prophecy Prize contest. I will, however, do my best, in looking at the prophecies of other people, and as the plan of arriving at a just verdict is a good one, I shall be glad to serve.

Paul Fuller—I will gladly act as one of the judges to decide the Journal's \$1,000 prophecy prize contest, and shall in every way I possibly can assist the staff of gentlemen who have chosen to arrange and count the prophecies. Events of importance have followed one another very rapidly during the last twelve months, and I feel much interested in personally examining the forecasts that I may see how nearly the prophecies have anticipated events—greater this year than in any for a generation past, at least. In starting this contest this year the Journal has certainly displayed as much foresight as any of the prophets. Who would have thought last December that the coming year would have been so pregnant with great events? I doubt very much if any of the prophets when forecasts you have now in your big iron safes has made as good a prediction as did the Journal last December. It perhaps did not say this will be the greatest year of our national existence, but the offering of the \$1,000 prophecy prize was itself indicative of a belief that the year would be a memorable one.

Charles Commissioner John W. Keller—I shall be glad to serve as judge in the prophecy contest. Before it is over I think it will prove one of the most interesting competitions ever known. The century has not shown a year so full of momentous events as this year of 1898. How its occurrences could have been foreseen, save by pure prophetic instinct, I cannot conceive. It will be a rich experience to scan these forecasts, and see how near the Journal prophecies have come to the truth.



The Room in Which the Prophecies Will Be Opened.

ing these last named events must therefore be greater.

Further, it seems fair that to incorrect prophecies there should attach some penalty; that, for example, if any number of points be awarded for prophesying the death of Gladstone, the same number should be deducted from the total score of a prophet who has made negative prophecy in regard to the great German—has prophesied that he would survive the year.

Then, having fixed upon the chief events of the twelve months, and allotted a numerical value to each of them, there will be the minor happenings to reckon with. The simplest method is suggested as the best in dealing with these. This seems to be to credit the prophet with one point for every event correctly foretold other than those included in the list of chief happenings. And for the prediction of things which have not come about the prophet, naturally enough, must have a unit deducted from his score.

E. L. Zolinski, U. S. Army—It will

be a pleasure to be one of the judges in the Journal \$1,000 prize prophecy contest, and you may put my name down as one of them.

Dr. Cyrus Edson—I shall be pleased to act as one of the judges to award the \$1,000 prize for the most correct forecast made of the doings of the year just ending.

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From "N. Y. J." Dec. 18, 1898.

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